

FORM B - Building

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Map and Lot # 220 33 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 42, 227-230

Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)

Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Roll Negative(s)

Address 194 Shirley Road

Historic Name Pollard, Jacob House

Uses: Present Residential - agricultural

Original Residential -agricultural

Date of Construction c. 1840

Source Butler's 1828-29 field notes

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

2 detached 19th c. barns, 3 sheds

Major Alterations (with dates)

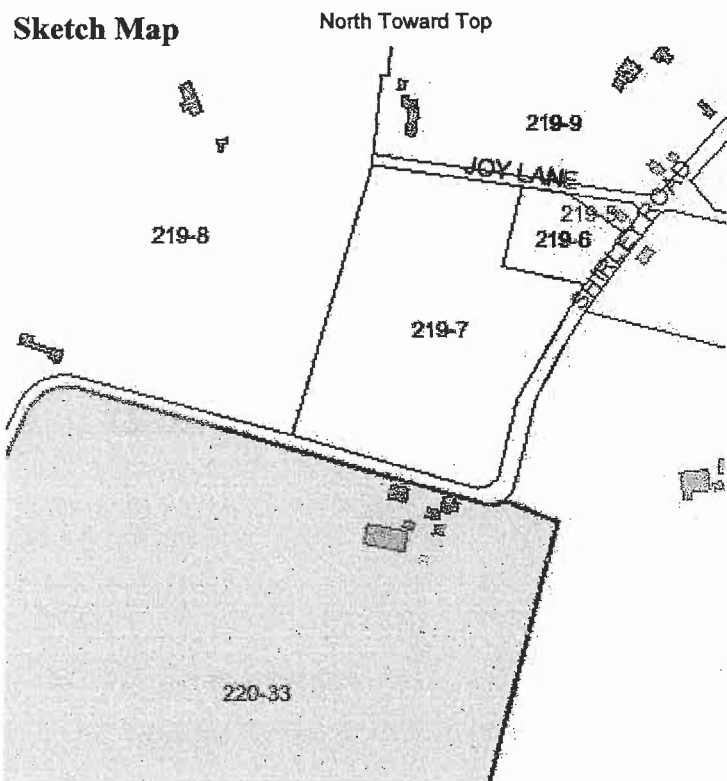
Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 91

Setting Rural

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 6/06

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

- * 194 Shirley Road is a complex of agricultural buildings that has at its core the Federal style 5x1-bay, side-gabled, 2 1/2-story house that is enlarged at the rear by a 2-story perpendicular ell of three bays and an east side open porch; a second rear addition of 2 bays is also visible from the east side; the ell has a 1-story screened porch at the west elevation which connects to the side-gabled carriage barn; also present are the detached wood clapboard barn and 2 additional wood clapboard sheds
- * Details on the house include the symmetrical fenestration in the façade, closed side gables, corner boards, molded cornice; the center entry has sidelights and a hip-roofed open porch with entablature supported by 2 Doric columns; windows are 2/2 double-hung sash with beaded trim; 2 brick chimneys rise from the rear slope of the roof and 1 from the ridge of the rear ell
- * The attached 2-story carriage barn has 2 bays accessed by folding or swinging doors and 2 pedestrian doors; a central gabled dormer lights the upper floor; small fixed sash and a 2/2 double-hung unit light the west side elevation; The detached barn west of the house is larger than the carriage barn, has rolling vehicle doors with a double row of transom lights, 6/6 double-hung sash, pedestrian doors and mow doors in both gable ends; gable returns, corner boards, a wide frieze, molded cornice and square roof ventilator are also present; 4 pairs of fixed 6-pane sashes light the north elevation; the detached small gable-roofed building behind or south of the house is clad in wood clapboards and lit by 6/6 sash; the chimney at the south side wall suggests its possible use as a shop
- * The very well-preserved house and outbuildings occupy a scenic parcel of open land with views of Mount Wachusett

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

see continuation sheets

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners /occupants played within the community.

The house that preceded the current building was occupied by Jacob Pollard and his wife Betsey, probably around the time of their marriage in 1812 and the property remained in the Pollard family into the late 19th century according to maps from 1832, 1856 and 1875. Butler's field notes from 1828-29, however, describe an old house of one story with only two windows across the façade, indicating the building was replaced shortly after the notes were made. Tax records from 1847 indicate that Jacob Pollard had \$3,400 in real property and \$5,850 in personal assets, a larger than average amount of wealth for Groton. Census schedules reveal him to be a farmer, born c. 1790. Non-population Census Schedules from 1850 show he had 111 acres and a farm worth \$4,000. During the Pollard's ownership, farming was the predominant activity on the property and included apple growing. Large orchards are still visible. The barn burned on May 16, 1877 according to Richardson. A subsequent owner was John Keating who is listed in the 1888 resident directory as a farmer. Tax records indicate a herd of 12 cows which is slightly above average. Additional barns and smaller outbuildings were built, probably in the late 19th and early 20th century. By 1929, the owners were Richard and Barbara Danielson, founders of the Groton Hunt Club in 1922. The club organized fox hunts over ground throughout Groton and as many as ten surrounding towns until 1964. Many hunts began on the property with packs of around 20 hounds and as many riders. Mr. Danielson was also a WWI and WWII veteran, writer of sports literature and the president of the Atlantic Monthly Company from 1940 until his death in 1957. Shirley Road originally took a diagonal route across the meadow but was later realigned in order to accommodate the resident of 162 Shirley Road.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Butler, p. 193, 268; May, "Groton Plantation", p. 46; Richardson, "The Community", pp. 4, 8, 13-14, 21; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; Resident directories, 1888, 1918, 1929; New York Times obituary for Richard Danielson, May 25, 1957; Non-population Census Schedules;

**** All properties mentioned in bold type are individually inventoried resources**

- Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement Form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Groton

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Massachusetts Archives Building
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

194 Shirley Road



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton

Property Address
194 Shirley Road

Area(s)

Form No.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

Individually eligible X

Eligible only in a historic district

Contributing to a potential historic district X

Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria considerations: A B C D E F G

The Federal Style house at 194 Shirley Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The house that preceded the current building was occupied by Jacob Pollard and his wife Betsey, probably around the time of their marriage in 1812 and the property remained in the Pollard family into the late 19th century according to maps from 1832, 1856 and 1875. Butler's field notes from 1828-29, however, describe an old house of one story with only two windows across the façade, indicating the building was replaced shortly after the notes were made. Tax records from 1847 indicate that Jacob Pollard had \$3,400 in real property and \$5,850 in personal assets, a larger than average amount of wealth for Groton. Census schedules reveal him to be a farmer, born c. 1790. During the Pollard's ownership, farming was the predominant activity on the property and included apple growing. Large orchards are still visible. The barn burned on May 16, 1877 according to Richardson. A subsequent owner was John Keating who is listed in the 1888 resident directory as a farmer. The building's association with historic agricultural activity establishes its significance under Criterion A. The refined design of the symmetrical façade, the 19th century barn and the surviving historic exterior materials make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house, barn and additional outbuildings retain integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.

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